

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-386001

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
allocating space in a host memory for use as a buffer;  
copying all contents of a memory of a network interface controller into the buffer in response to a first request to read information in the memory of the network interface controller;  
modifying the contents of the network interface controller memory and correspondingly modifying the contents of the buffer;  
and  
accessing the contents of the buffer to read the information requested in the first request ~~in response to a request for information in the network interface controller memory.~~
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The method according to claim 1 further comprising: initializing a device driver in a Network Driver Interface Specification environment to allocate the space in the host memory in less than a second.

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4. (Original) The method according to claim 3 comprising:  
initializing the buffer to store the contents of the  
network interface controller memory wherein initializing the  
buffer occurs at a different time from the driver  
initialization.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1 comprising:  
initializing a physical layer; and  
subsequently initializing the buffer to store the contents  
of the network interface controller memory.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the  
network interface controller memory comprises an EEPROM.

7. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
copying all contents of a network interface controller  
memory into a buffer in host memory in response to a request to  
read information in the network interface controller memory;  
recopying all ~~the~~ contents of the network interface  
controller memory into the buffer if the contents of the network  
interface controller memory are modified; and

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accessing the contents of the buffer to read the  
information requested in the request ~~in response to a request~~  
~~for information in the network interface controller memory.~~

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7 further  
comprising:

initializing a driver to allocate memory space to the  
buffer.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8 further  
comprising:

initializing the driver in a Network Driver Interface  
Specification environment in less than a second.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 8 further  
comprising:

initializing the buffer at a time different from the driver  
initialization.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 7 further  
comprising:

initializing the buffer to store the contents of the  
network interface controller memory in response to a first

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request to read the contents of the network interface controller memory.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
a network interface controller containing a memory;  
a bus coupled to the controller;  
a host memory coupled to the bus and having space allocated for use as a buffer; and  
a processor coupled to the host memory and configured to:  
copy all contents of the network interface controller memory into the buffer in response to a request to read information in the network interface controller memory;  
modify the contents of the network interface controller memory and correspondingly modify the contents of the buffer;  
and  
access the contents of the buffer to read the information requested in the request ~~in response to a request for information in the network interface controller memory~~.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the processor is further configured to:

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initialize a device driver in a Network Driver Interface Specification environment to allocate the space in the host memory in less than a second.

15. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the processor is further configured to:

initialize the buffer to store the contents of the network interface controller memory, wherein the buffer initialization occurs at a different time from the driver initialization.

16. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the processor is further configured to:

initialize a physical layer; and

subsequently initialize the buffer to store the contents of the network interface controller memory.

17. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the network interface controller memory comprises an EEPROM.

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
a network interface controller containing a memory;  
a bus coupled to the controller;  
a host memory coupled to the bus; and

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a processor coupled to the host memory; wherein the processor is configured to:

copy contents of the network interface controller memory into a buffer in the host memory;

access the contents of the buffer in response to a request for information in the network interface controller memory; and

recopy the contents of the network interface controller memory into the buffer when packet traffic on the bus is below a predetermined level and if the contents of the network interface controller memory are modified.

19. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the processor is further configured to:

initialize a driver in a network driver interface specification environment to allocate memory space to the buffer in less than a second.

20. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19 wherein the buffer is initialized at a time different from the driver initialization.

21. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the processor is further configured to:

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initialize the buffer to store the contents of the network interface controller memory in response to a first request to read the contents of the network interface controller memory.

22. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a computer-readable medium that stores computer-executable instructions for causing a computer system to:

allocate space in a host memory for use as a buffer;

copy all contents of a memory of a network interface controller into the buffer in response to a request to read information in the memory of the network interface controller;

modify the contents of the network interface controller memory and correspondingly modify the contents of the buffer;  
and

access the contents of the buffer to read information requested in the request ~~in response to a request for information in the network interface controller memory.~~

23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) The article according to claim 22 further including instruction for causing the computer system to:

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initialize a device driver in a network driver interface specification environment to allocate the space in the host memory in less than a second.

25. (Original) The article according to claim 24 further including instruction for causing the computer system to:

initialize the buffer to store the contents of the network interface controller memory wherein initializing the buffer occurs at a different time from the driver initialization.

26. (Original) The article according to claim 22 further including instructions for causing the computer system to:

initialize a physical layer; and

subsequently initialize the buffer to store the contents of the network interface controller memory.

27. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a computer-readable medium that stores computer-executable instructions for causing a computer system to:

copy all contents of a network interface controller memory into a buffer in host memory;

recopy all the contents of the network interface controller memory into the buffer if the contents of the network interface controller memory are modified; and



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access the contents of the buffer in response to a request for information in the network interface controller memory.

28. (Original) The article according to claim 27 further including instructions for causing the computer system to:

initialize a driver in a Network Driver Interface Specification environment to allocate memory space to the buffer in less than a second.

29. (Original) The article according to claim 27 further including instructions for the computer system to:

initialize the buffer to store the contents of the network interface controller memory in response to a first request to read the contents of the network interface controller memory.

30. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein correspondingly modifying the contents of the buffer occurs independently of a request by a host to access information in the network interface controller memory.

31. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the contents of the buffer are correspondingly modified independently of a request by a host to access information in the memory of the network interface controller.

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32. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 22 wherein the contents of the buffer are correspondingly modified independently of a request by a host to access information in the memory of the network interface controller.

33. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
determining, in response to a second request to read information in the memory of the network interface controller, whether the contents of the memory of the network interface controller have been modified;

copying all contents of the memory of the network interface controller into the buffer if the contents have been modified;  
and

accessing the contents of the buffer to read the information requested in the second request.